

NO TRACE CAMPING

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST



Choosing a Campsite

Look for a campsite that is invisible from the main trail. Tents and packs with subdued earth toned colors can help hide your campsite from nearby campers and travelers on the trail. This will give other visitors a greater feeling of solitude.

Pick a site that is at least 200 feet from a lake shore. Plants along the shore are easily trampled and killed by tents and campfires. Have a good place for a tent where you will not have to destroy vegetation by trenching.

Campfires

Campfires can leave unnecessary signs of man's presence in the wilderness. The best way to prevent a campfire scar is to use a portable stove and not build a fire at all. If you build a fire, here are some ways to lessen its impact.

Use only fallen dead wood, avoid cutting down snags. Keep your fire small. To prevent your fire from spreading, clear away the duff and litter until you reach dirt. Make sure there are no overhanging branches or severe winds.

A ring of rocks is not necessary. Rocks will do little to contain a campfire and the flames will color them an unsightly black.

Never leave your fire unattended, and erase all trace of your fire before you leave.

Not all garbage, paper, and plastic burns in a campfire. Aluminum cans and foil will not. They break up into small pieces that become litter.

Cigarette butts, pull tabs, candy bar wrappers and toilet paper are litter. Pack out your trash instead of burying it. The bears dig up garbage pits and scatter the trash.

Soap and Human Waste

Fish and soapy water do not mix. Please wash your dishes on shore in a pot of water and then dump the water on the ground far from any lake or stream. You can take baths without polluting as well.

Bury human waste with the heel of your boot, a shovel, or a trowel. Dig a hole five of six inches into the humus layer at least 100 feet from the water. Afterwards, cover the hole and microorganisms will decompose the waste.

If you are in a large group, dig a long but shallow latrine. Remember to fill it in before you leave.

Breaking Camp

Breaking down your camp, drown your campfire. Make sure it is out by feeling the ashes with the back of your hand. If any ashes feel warm, use more water. Scatter the cold ashes and any rock away from the campsite where they can't be seen. Scatter your firewood. Spread needles and twigs over the fire scar.

Pack out all garbage and unburned materials. If using stock, scatter animal manure for quicker decomposition.

Fill the latrine (if you had one).

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